

JCO5 Rec'd PCT/PTO 29 AUG 2001

FORM PTO-1390 (REV. 11-2000)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER	
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371				AB-1158 US	
				U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5)	
				09/914635	
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/DE00/00613		INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 1 March 2000		PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED 1 March 1999	
TITLE OF INVENTION Method Of Noise Cancellation In A Signal Generated By Discrete Multi-Tone Modulation And Circuit For Carrying Out Said Method					
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US Heinrich Schenk, Dietmar Straeussnigg, Stefan Schneider					
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:					
<p>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</p> <p>2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</p> <p>3. <input type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (21) indicated below.</p> <p>4. <input type="checkbox"/> The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31).</p> <p>5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a. <input type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been communicated by the International Bureau.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).</p> <p>6. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a. <input type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</p> <p>7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a. <input type="checkbox"/> are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been communicated by the International Bureau.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">d. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made.</p> <p>8. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3)).</p> <p>9. <input type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).</p> <p>10. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).</p> <p>Items 11 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:</p> <p>11. <input type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.</p> <p>12. <input type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.</p> <p>13. <input type="checkbox"/> A FIRST preliminary amendment.</p> <p>14. <input type="checkbox"/> A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment.</p> <p>15. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification.</p> <p>16. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.</p> <p>17. <input type="checkbox"/> A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 - 1.825.</p> <p>18. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</p> <p>19. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</p> <p>20. <input type="checkbox"/> Other items or information:</p>					

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known) 09/914835 INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/DE00/00613	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER AB-1158 US
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21. ☒ The following fees are submitted:

BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)):

Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482)
 nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO
 and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO. **\$1000.00**

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to
 USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO **\$860.00**

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO
 but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO **\$710.00**

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO
 but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) **\$690.00**

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO
 and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) **\$100.00**

ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =

Surcharge of **\$130.00** for furnishing the oath or declaration later than ☐ 20 ☒ 30
 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).

CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	\$	
Total claims	4 - 20 =	0	x \$18.00	\$ 0	
Independent claims	2 - 3 =	0	x \$80.00	\$ 0	
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)			+ \$270.00	\$	
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				\$ 990.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.				\$	
SUBTOTAL =				\$ 990.00	
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).				\$ 130.00	
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				\$ 1,120.00	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property +				\$	
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				\$ 1,120.00	
				Amount to be refunded:	\$
				charged:	\$

CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY

a. ☐ A check in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees is enclosed.

b. ☒ Please charge my Deposit Account No. 19-2386 in the amount of \$ 1,120.00 to cover the above fees.
 A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

c. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any
 overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-2386. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

d. ☐ Fees are to be charged to a credit card. **WARNING:** Information on this form may become public. **Credit card
 information should not be included on this form.** Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR
 1.137 (a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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 33,003
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25 FEB 2002

09/914635

WO 00/52892

PCT/DE00/00613

Description

Method for the compensation of interference in a signal
generated by discrete multitone modulation, and circuit
5 arrangement for carrying out the method

The invention relates to a method for the compensation
of interference in a signal generated by discrete
multitone modulation according to the preamble of
10 patent claim 1, and to a circuit arrangement for
carrying out the method according to the preamble of
patent claim 4.

Discrete multitone modulation (DMT) - also called
15 multicarrier modulation - is a modulation method which
is suitable in particular for the transmission of data
via channels effecting linear distortion. Compared with
a so-called single-carrier method - for example
amplitude modulation - which has only one carrier
20 frequency, a multiplicity of carrier frequencies are
used in discrete multitone modulation. Each individual
carrier frequency is modulated in amplitude and phase
according to the quadrature amplitude modulation (QAM).
A multiplicity of QAM-modulated signals are thus
25 obtained. In this case, a specific number of bits can
be transmitted per carrier frequency. Discrete
multitone modulation is used for example for digital
audio broadcasting DAB under the designation OFDM
(Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplex) and for the
30 transmission of data via telephone lines under the
designation ADSL (Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line).

In ADSL, the physical transmission channel is a two-
wire line (copper double core) of the telephone
35 network. However, such a transmission channel has a
long transient recovery time. Signals generated by
discrete multitone modulation typically contain very
short pulses having a high amplitude, which effect

WO 00/52892

- 2 -

PCT/DE00/00613

impulse responses that decay slowly in this transmission channel. If an impulse response has still not completely decayed when a new pulse arrives at the receiver, then interference occurs in the receiver. For compensation of such interference, DMT receivers contain time domain equalizers, for example, which are intended to shorten the impulse response of the transmission channel and avoid interference on account of superposition of an impulse response of a pulse that has not yet decayed and an impulse response of a subsequent pulse.

The time domain equalizer (TDEQ) may be embodied for example as a digital transversal filter whose coefficients are adjustable. The design of such time domain equalizers is described in Al-Dhahir, N., Cioffi, J.M., "Optimum Finite-Length Equalization for Multicarrier Transceivers", IEEE Trans.on Comm., Vol. 44, No. 1, Jan. 1996.

What is disadvantageous with such time domain equalizers, however, is the high number of coefficients of the digital transversal filter used as time domain equalizer, and the complex adaptation of the digital transversal filter. Given a filter length of 20 to 40 coefficients, approximately 50 to 100 million multiplications have to be carried out per second. Accordingly, a digital filter for time domain equalization requires a very high computing power. In addition, each coefficient has to be adjusted for the adaptation of the digital transversal filter. This requires a long adaptation time which has to be provided at the beginning of an ADSL transmission.

The technical problem on which the invention is based resides, therefore, in specifying a method for the compensation of interference in a signal generated by discrete multitone modulation and a circuit arrangement for carrying out the method, wherein the method is

WO 00/52892

- 3 -

PCT/DE00/00613

simple to perform and the circuit arrangement is simple to produce and complex adaptation of coefficients is not necessary.

- 5 This problem is solved by means of a method for the compensation of interference in a signal generated by discrete multitone modulation having the features of patent claim 1 and by means of a circuit arrangement for carrying out the method having the features of
10 patent claim 4. Advantageous refinements emerge from the respective subclaims.

- The invention relates to a method for the compensation of interference in a signal generated by discrete
15 multitone modulation. The interference is essentially caused by the transient process of a transmission channel via which the signal is transmitted. The signal has a multiplicity of symbols and each symbol is preceded by a cyclic prefix. A multiplicity of
20 parameters are calculated from the digitized samples of the signal. The transient process of the transmission channel is in turn calculated to an approximation from the multiplicity of parameters. For compensation of the interference, the transient process calculated to an
25 approximation is subtracted from the digitized samples. Advantageously, the multiplicity of parameters are calculated directly from the signal and there is no need for time-consuming adaptation of coefficients as in the case of time domain equalizers. Consequently,
30 convergence problems, caused by excessively long adaptation, cannot occur either. In this case, the transient process calculated to an approximation results from the consideration that the transmission channel behaves like a low-order linear system and the
35 transient process of such a system can be calculated very simply. Advantageously, the transient process calculated to an approximation can be subtracted from the digitized samples in the time domain or in the frequency domain. In the event of subtraction in the

WO 00/52892

- 4 -

PCT/DE00/00613

frequency domain, Fourier transformation of the transient process calculated to an approximation is not necessary since the coefficients multiplied by exponential functions defining the transient process remain the same. In a preferred embodiment, each parameter is calculated by subtraction of a pair of digitized samples. In this case, it is particularly preferred for each pair of digitized samples to have a digitized sample of a symbol and a digitized sample of a cyclic prefix.

The invention furthermore relates to a circuit arrangement for carrying out a method for the compensation of interference in a signal generated by discrete multitone modulation. The signal has a multiplicity of symbols and each symbol is preceded by a cyclic prefix. In this case, digitized samples of the signal are fed to a serial/parallel converter. Furthermore, a multiplicity of subtractor circuits are provided. Each subtractor circuit subtracts a digitized sample of the symbol from a corresponding digitized sample of the cyclic prefix preceding the symbol. The result of the subtraction is an interference superposed on the digitized sample of the cyclic prefix. For each coefficient of the equation which was set up for calculating the transient process of the transmission channel to an approximation, multiplier circuits are provided which multiply the output signal of each subtractor circuit by the coefficients. The output signal of each multiplier circuit is then subtracted from the corresponding digital sample of the symbol.

Further advantages, features and possible applications of the invention emerge from the following description of exemplary embodiments in conjunction with the drawing, in which

figure 1 shows a block diagram of the method for the compensation of interference in a signal

WO 00/52892

- 5 -

PCT/DE00/00613

generated by discrete multitone modulation;
and

5 figure 2 shows an exemplary embodiment of a circuit arrangement for carrying out the method for the compensation of interference in a signal generated by discrete multitone modulation;
and

10 figure 3 shows a block of the signal generated by discrete multitone modulation.

Figure 1 illustrates a block diagram with the components essential to the invention and three
15 different exemplary embodiments of the method, which are represented by broken lines. The block diagram illustrated corresponds to a receiver for a signal generated by discrete multitone modulation.

20 An analog reception signal which has been generated by discrete multitone modulation is fed to an analog-to-digital converter 1. The analog-to-digital converter 1 samples the analog reception signal and converts the samples of the analog reception signal into digital
25 values.

A block of the signal generated by discrete multitone modulation is illustrated in figure 3. In this case, a number $N+P$ of digital values form the block, which
30 contains a transmitted symbol comprising N digital values. The remaining P digital values of the block correspond to the last P digital values of the symbol and form a cyclic prefix. The cyclic prefix is situated at the start of the block. The cyclic prefix generates
35 a "pseudo-periodicity" which enables easier frequency domain equalization of the received signal for the receiver. This is because the transmission channel can be regarded as a linear transfer function.

WO 00/52892

- 6 -

PCT/DE00/00613

As illustrated in figure 1, the digital values of the block are fed to a unit for removing the cyclic prefix 2, on the one hand, and to a compensation unit for parameter calculation 3, on the other hand.

5

The compensator unit for parameter calculation 3 calculates from the cyclic prefix interference brought about by the transient process of, in particular, the transmission channel. To that end, the corresponding digital values of the cyclic prefix and of the symbol are subtracted from one another. The result of the subtraction corresponds to the interference. This holds true, of course, only if the impulse response of the transmission channel is shorter than the time duration of a symbol including cyclic prefix. In this case, the digital values at the end of a block can be regarded as having settled and being free from errors. This means that interference on account of the transient process can be calculated very accurately. From this interference, the compensator unit 3 calculates parameters for a linear equation which specifies the transient process, which essentially causes the interference, to an approximation.

25 The linear equation for calculating the transient process to an approximation is based on the assumption that the transient process behaves like the transient process in a low-order linear system. In this case, first- and second-order systems have proved to be sufficient. In a second-order system taken as an example, the equation for calculating the transient process has two parameters c_1 and c_2 . The general form of the equation for calculating the transient process is represented by the following formula:

35

$$e(n \cdot T) = c_1 \cdot f_1(n \cdot T) + c_2 \cdot f_2(n \cdot T) + \dots$$

The functions $f_1(n \cdot T)$ are exponential functions which may also be complex conjugate. By means of 2

WO 00/52892

- 7 -

PCT/DE00/00613

transformation, the following equation for calculating the transient process holds true in the frequency domain:

5
$$E(z) = c_1 \cdot F_1(z) + c_2 \cdot F_2(z) + \dots$$

Consequently, two digital values of the interference on account of the transient process are required for the calculation of two parameters c_1 and c_2 .

10

The calculated parameters can be fed to a unit for calculating the transient process 4, on the one hand, and to a unit for transformation into the frequency domain 5, on the other hand.

15

If the compensation of the interference takes place in the time domain, then the transient process calculated by the unit for calculating the transient process 4 is subtracted from the output values of the unit for removing the cyclic prefix 2 by means of a first subtractor 8. The error-free digital values thus calculated are then fed to a unit for calculating the fast Fourier transform 9 (FFT), which converts the signal represented by the digital values from the time domain into the frequency domain.

20

25

If, instead of this, the compensation of the interference is intended to take place in the frequency domain, the output values of the unit for transformation into the frequency domain 5 are subtracted from the output values of the unit for calculating the fast Fourier transform 9 by means of a second subtractor 10. The error-free digital values thus calculated are then fed to a frequency domain equalizer 11 (FEQ = Frequency Equalization).

30

35

The frequency domain equalizer 11 is embodied as an adaptive digital filter whose coefficients are adapted to the transmission channel at the beginning of a

WO 00/52892

- 8 -

PCT/DE00/00613

transmission. If the frequency domain equalizer has been completely adapted, then the transfer function represents the inverse transfer function of the transmission channel.

5

The adapted values of the digital filter of the frequency domain equalizer are fed to a unit for system analysis 6. The unit for system analysis 6 calculates, from the coefficients fed to it, the properties of the transmission channel and composes therefrom the equation for calculating the transient process of the transmission channel to an approximation. This equation is fed to the compensator unit for parameter calculation 3 and evaluated by the latter.

10

As a third alternative, the compensation of interference can take place after the frequency domain equalization by the frequency domain equalizer 11. To that end, the output values of the unit for transformation into the frequency domain 5 are fed to a unit for multiplication by the FEQ coefficients 7. The unit for multiplication by FEQ coefficients 7 multiplies the values fed to it by the adapted coefficients of the frequency domain equalizer 11. The output values of the unit for multiplication by FEQ coefficients 7 are then subtracted from the output values of the unit for frequency domain equalization 11 by means of a third subtractor 12.

15

Finally, the interference-free digital values thus calculated are fed to a unit for decision and decoding 13, which generates a digital signal containing the information contained in the analog reception signal.

20

Figure 2 illustrates an exemplary embodiment of a circuit arrangement for carrying out the method.

In this exemplary embodiment, the compensation of the interference takes place in the time domain before fast

WO 00/52892

- 9 -

PCT/DE00/00613

Fourier transformation.

An analog reception signal is fed to an analog-to-digital converter 14 which converts the analog
5 reception signal fed to it into digital values.

The digital values at the output of the analog-to-digital converter 14 are fed to a unit for serial/parallel conversion 15.

10

The unit for serial/parallel conversion 15 has N+P storage locations for digital values. N+P digital values form exactly one block of the signal generated by discrete multitone modulation. In this case, a block
15 has, at the start, the cyclic prefix comprising P digital values, and following that the symbol comprising N digital values.

20

In this exemplary embodiment, the transmission channel is regarded as a first-order system, only one digital value of the interference being required to calculate the transient process.

25

Assuming that the transient process of the channel has already decayed before the last digital value of a block (storage locations 1, 2) the error on account of the transient process is calculated by subtraction of the last digital value of the block (storage location 1) and the last digital value of the cyclic prefix
30 (storage location N+1).

35

To that end, these digital values are fed to a subtractor 16. The calculated error at the output of the subtractor 16 is in each case fed to a multiplier 15, 17. In this case, a multiplier is provided for each of the N digital values of the symbol. Each multiplier multiplies the error at the output of the subtractor 16 by a parameter which has been calculated by means of the system equation for a first-order linear system.

WO 00/52892

- 10 -

PCT/DE00/00613

The calculated transient process is in each case subtracted from a digital value of the symbol by means of subtractors 19, 20.

- 5 The digital values of the symbol that have thus been calculated and corrected are then fed to a unit for fast Fourier transformation 21, which converts the signal represented by the digital values fed to it from the time domain into the frequency domain for further
10 processing.

WO 00/52892

- 11 -

PCT/DE00/00613

Patent Claims

1. A method for the compensation of interference in a signal generated by discrete multitone modulation, the interference essentially being caused by the transient process of a transmission channel via which the signal is transmitted, the signal having a multiplicity of symbols and each symbol being preceded by a cyclic prefix, characterized in that
- a) a multiplicity of parameters are calculated from the digitized samples of the signal,
- b) the transient process of the transmission channel is calculated to an approximation from the multiplicity of parameters,
- c) the transient process calculated to an approximation is subtracted from the digitized samples of each symbol.
2. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that each parameter is calculated by subtraction of a pair of digitized samples.
3. The method as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that each pair of digitized samples has a digitized sample of a symbol and a digitized sample of a cyclic prefix.
4. A circuit arrangement for carrying out a method for the compensation of interference in a signal generated by discrete multitone modulation, the signal having a multiplicity of symbols and each symbol being preceded by a cyclic prefix, the digitized samples of the signal being fed to a serial/parallel converter (15), characterized in that

WO 00/52892

- 12 -

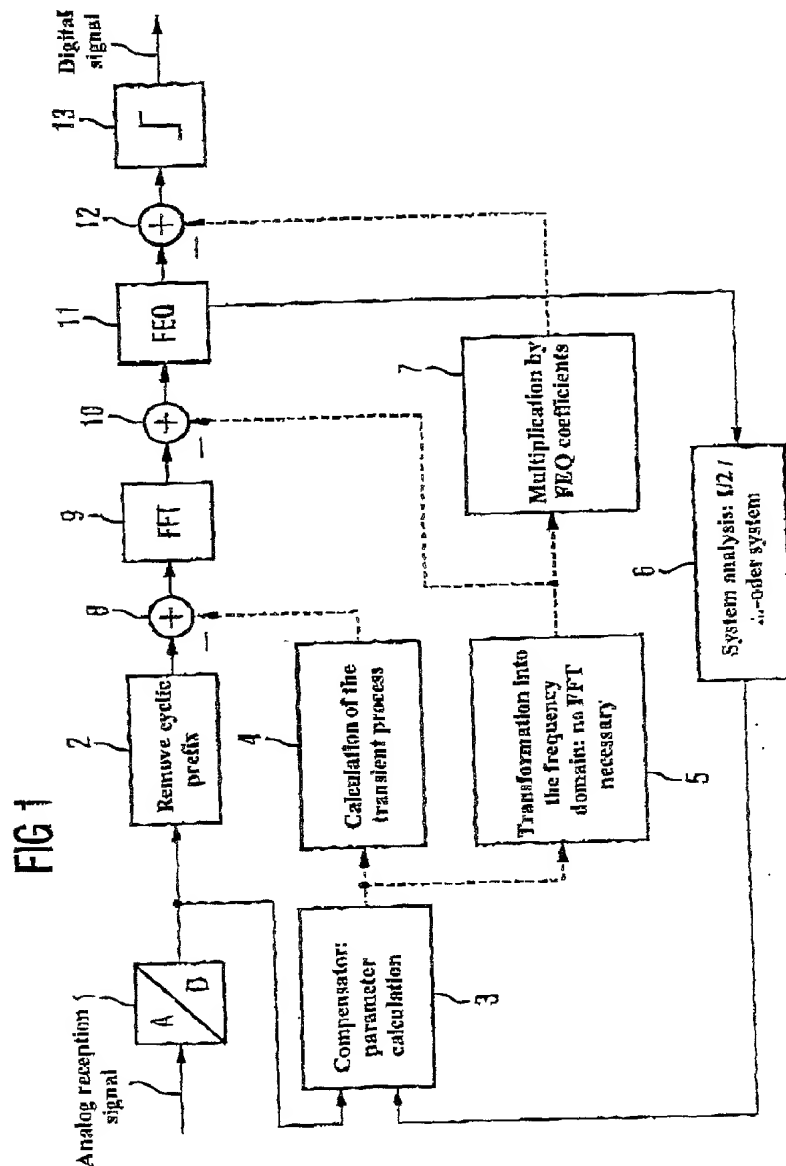
PCT/DE00/00613

- a multiplicity of subtractor circuits (16) are provided, each subtractor circuit subtracting a digitized sample of the symbol from a digitized sample of the cyclic prefix preceding the symbol,
- 5 - a multiplicity of multiplier circuits (15, 17) are provided,
- the output signal of each subtractor circuit is in each case fed to one of the multiplicity of multiplier circuits (15, 17), and
- 10 - the output signal of each multiplier circuit (15, 17) is subtracted (19, 20) from the corresponding digital sample of the symbol.

09/914635
PCT/DE00/00613

WO 00/52892

1/2



09/914635

PCT/DE00/00613

WO 00/52892

2/2

FIG 2

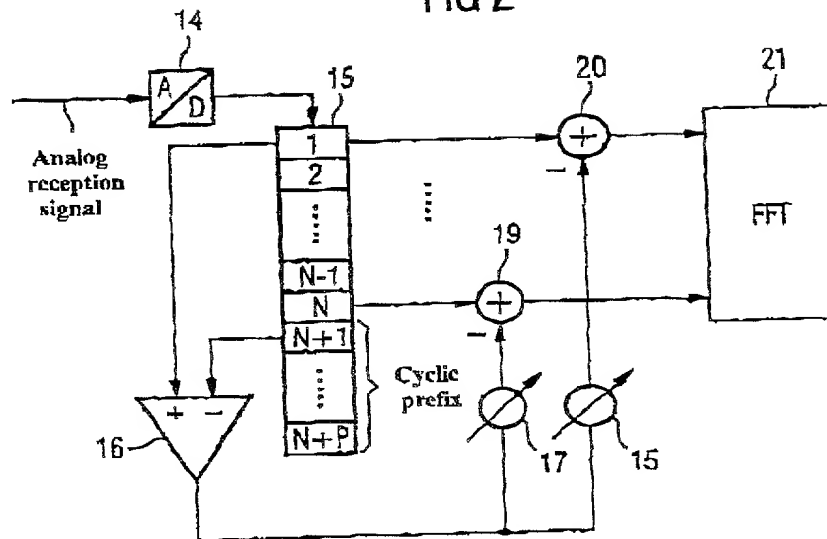
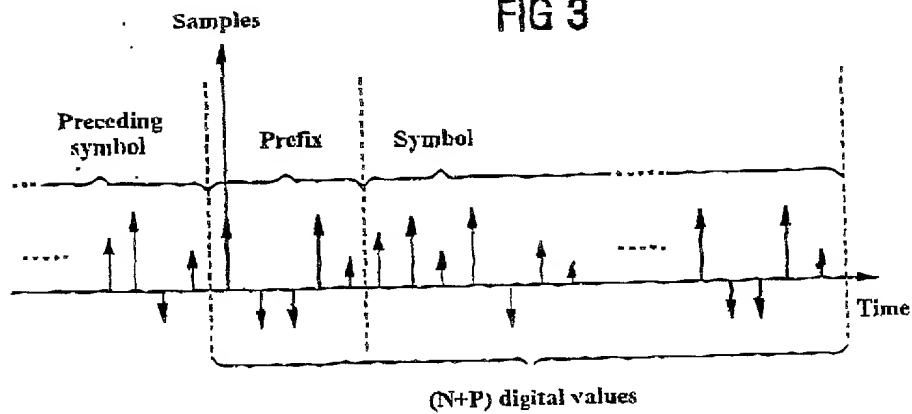


FIG 3



Attorney Docket No. 12816-040001
Client Docket No: S 1463

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled METHOD AND NOISE CANCELLATION IN A SIGNAL GENERATED BY DISCRETE MULTI-TONE MODULATION AND CIRCUIT FOR CARRYING OUT SAID METHOD, the specification of which:

☐ is attached hereto.

☒ was filed on August 29, 2001 as Application Serial No. 09/914,635.

☒ was described and claimed in PCT International Application No. PCT/DE00/00613 filed on March 1, 2000.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information I know to be material to patentability in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby appoint the following attorneys and/or agents to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

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Boston, Massachusetts 02110-2804

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patents issued thereon.

Full Name of Inventor: HEINRICH SCHENK

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DEX

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I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information I know to be material to patentability in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby appoint the following attorneys and/or agents to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

Faustino A. Lichauco, Reg. No. 41,942

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Address all correspondence to FAUSTINO A. LICHAUCO at:

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patents issued thereon.

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Full Name of Inventor: STEFAN SCHNEIDER

Inventor's Signature: *Stefan Schneider*

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Date: _____

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Attorney Docket No. 12816-040001

Client Docket No: S 1463

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled METHOD AND NOISE CANCELLATION IN A SIGNAL GENERATED BY DISCRETE MULTI-TONE MODULATION AND CIRCUIT FOR CARRYING OUT SAID METHOD, the specification of which:

☐ is attached hereto.☒ was filed on August 29, 2001 as Application Serial No. 09/914,635.☒ was described and claimed in PCT International Application No. PCT/DE00/00613 filed on March 1, 2000.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information I know to be material to patentability in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby appoint the following attorneys and/or agents to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patents issued thereon.

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Date:

Date:

Year	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100
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